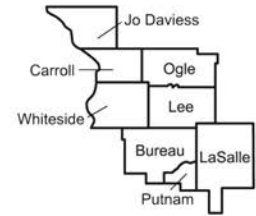




Geared Toward The Future

NORTHWEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS **WORKS**



Annual Report

July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network



Greetings!

As always, the staff of the one-stop system continue to strive to provide the highest quality services to all of our customers, youth and adult, dislocated workers, businesses and the general public. This past year, partners within the system hosted numerous hiring events, career exploration events for youth, and participated in various Manufacturing Day events. We appreciate the dedication and hard work of those involved in providing these services to the residents of our local workforce area. We hope that you will gain some insight from this annual report, of the many successes realized through the last year.

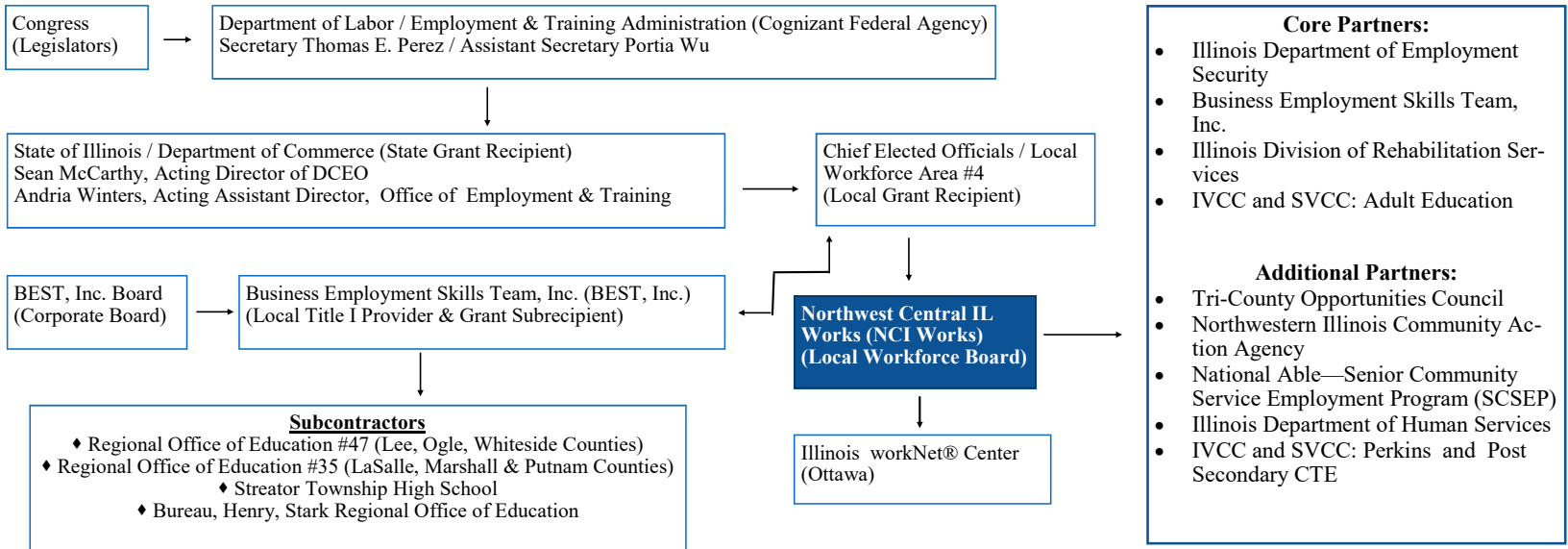
Linda S. Burt

Cory Robbins



NCI Works One-Stop Center
1550 First Ave
Ottawa, IL 61350

<https://nciworksamericanjobcenter.wordpress.com/about>
815-640-9407, TTY 800-526-0844 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm
Closed State Holidays



Core Partner Year in Review

Adult Education

To inquire about Adult Education Services log on to the following websites or call the contact listed below.

Illinois Valley Community College:

<https://www.ivcc.edu/adulted.aspx?id=2884>

Or Call 815-224-0358.

Sauk Valley Community College:

<https://www.svcc.edu/community/adult-education>

Or Call 815-835-6310

Highland Community College:

<https://highland.edu/adult-education>

Or Call 815-599-3460

Illinois Valley Community College

FY18 Statistics

Adult Ed students served in FY18 - Total 348 students

Adult Basic Ed students – 150, HSE students - 51, and ESL students - 147
43 HSE recipients

Citizenship – 7 new citizens

Bridge to Healthcare – 6 Bridge completers

Program completion rate 75%

Sauk Valley Community College

FY 18 Statistics

Adult Basic Education (ABE grade levels 4.0 – 8.9)	9
Adult Secondary Education (ASE grade levels 9.0 -12.9+)	130
ESL – All levels	23
Total students (Unduplicated)	162

Top Five Career Interests

Certified Nursing Assistant/Nursing

Welding/HVAC/Manufacturing

Management/Marketing

Criminal Justice

Teaching/Early Childhood Education

Students who have transitioned into college/certificate programs 8

Career/College Bridge Programs

Our program offered a transition to college course titled FYE 101 (First Year Experience). FYE 101 is a college success-based course, designed to facilitate the self-development of the student, and introduce students to the expectations of the college community. This course reviews the academic skills that promote success during the student’s college career. This course is required of any college student working towards the completion of an Associate Degree.

This course was available to current students in GED or ESL classes. Participants must be planning to enroll into SVCC for the fall 2018 semester. We had 7 students successfully complete the course. All 7 students are planning to enroll in health sciences programs at SVCC.

College/Career Bridge program goals:

Development and improvement of study skills to aid in college success

Test-taking strategies

Career exploration and decision making

Problem solving and critical thinking skills

Highland Community College

FY18 Statistics

Number of students enrolled in Fiscal Year 2018

31	Adult Basic Education (ABE grade-levels 0.0 to 8.9)
34	Adult Secondary Education (ASE grade-levels 9.0 -12.9)
02	4 of these ASE Students Accessed Programming through an Online Class (i-Pathways)
09	English as a Second Language (ESL) (Mixed levels-beginning, intermediate, and advanced)
110	Total students served

During Fiscal Year 2018:

16	Students Self-Reported GED© Completion
2	Students Accessed Programming through an Online Class (I-Pathways)
23	Students participated in “Elevate-Stephenson Youth Program” Through Partnership with Regional Office Education #8. Funding provided through WIOA.
00	Students Self-Reported a Disability (physical, mental, learning or multiple)
35	Students Self-Reported That They Were Unemployed
15	Students Received Public Assistance
9	Students Reported That English is Not Their First Language



<https://nciworksamericanjobcenter.wordpress.com/about>

Illinois Department of Employment Security

FY18 Statistics

During the program year, the Ottawa Comprehensive One-Stop Center had 35 hiring events and 5 job seeker workshops. Several of the hiring events included multiple employers and took place in our large conference room in the South Towne Mall. Since IDES has the capability of using Public Service announcements on local radio stations, this can really impact the amount of job seekers at our on-site recruitments and hiring events, along with the e-mail blasts that we are able to send out to job seekers who are registered on IllinoisJobLink.com. In this program year, we served 1060 job seekers, including local veterans at these on-site recruitments, hiring events and CMS workshops (how to apply for state employment).

On August 2, 2017, IDES and our title IB Partner, BEST, Inc. attended Representative Jerry Long's Job Fair at Wallace Grade School, where 135 job seekers had the opportunity to speak to multiple employers who attended the Job Fair and learn about using IllinoisJobLink.com to job search.

On April 3, 2018, the Ottawa IDES office had an informational table at the Illinois Valley Community College's Job Fair in Oglesby, Illinois. This year, we spoke to over 25 job seekers who stopped at our table about the importance of registering on Illinois Job Link to enhance their job seeking capabilities.

Twice a year, usually in May and October, IDES has an informational table at Sheridan Correctional Center's Summit of Hope. At each Summit, we offer information and brochures to at least 250 inmates about IDES' Re-Entry Employment Services, Federal Bonding and the importance of them registering on Illinois Job Link to look for work once they are released into the community.

This has been a very productive program year with activities and meetings regarding the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act's requirements. The core partners of our Ottawa One-Stop, which include IDES, BEST, Inc., Division of Rehabilitative Services and Adult Education (IVCC) applied and were accepted as the Ottawa One-Stop Operator, which uses a consortium method. We have monthly One-Stop Operator meetings and review comments and suggestions from the comment box at our One-Stop Center, along with reviewing the monthly partner referrals that we have received. The core partners also worked together on a North Central Illinois Works website, where each partner lists the services they are able to provide to the job seekers who are in Local Workforce Area #4.

BEST, Inc. – Adult, Dislocated Workers and Youth
Program Year 2017 (July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018)

Incumbent Worker Training

For Program Year 2017 nine companies benefited from grant funds through the Incumbent Worker Training program. Total expenditures and obligations for year were \$157,672.05.

Rapid Response

Staff responded to 5 dislocation events during the program year: Clover Technologies (31 employees), Bergner's Peru (64 employees), St. Mary's Cement (35 employees), Nippon (17 employees), Plews (10 employees), and provided materials for 50 employees at Sears Peru which opted not to have workshops. In addition Dura Automotive was certified as a TRADE event Which effected 53 employees.

Workshops for the Illinois Department of Human Services

Workshops were held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month, except for December. Attendance at each workshop averaged between 5 and 10 people per month.

Topics covered included, identifying skills, networking, and resume preparation. Additional topics are covered as they arise among participants; such as interviewing, job fair etiquette, etc. Staff also discuss those employers most likely to employ people who have been out of the job market for a period of time. Invitations to the workshops are mailed out by DHS staff to clients for each month.

Employer Conference

We held the fourteenth Annual Employer Conference on October 27, 2017 at the Mendota Civic Center. Approximately seventy-five (71) people were in attendance. Presentations included: *The Guest Encounter* by Laurie Guest, and *Hot Topics in HR Law* by Sarah Gasperini and Melanie Stewar of Jackson Lewis.

Education Outreach Program – Lee Ogle Whiteside Regional Office of Education

Provides youth with academic instruction toward completion of high school equivalency, career information, work-based learning, job search assistance, supportive service and training for in-demand occupations

Services are provided to youth ages 17-24 who have dropped from school and live in Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties

The program served 115 youth this year. Site locations include Sterling, Oregon and SVCC

Bridge – Streator High School

Provides youth with academic instruction toward attainment of a high school diploma

Services are provided to youth 17-21 years old who have dropped and re-enrolled at Streator High School

Program served 13 youth this year

Step Ahead – Henry Bureau Regional Office of Education

Provides youth with academic instruction toward the attainment of a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate and also provides work-based learning opportunities

Instruction is provided, usually one-on-one, at the local library in each youth's community. Youth are 17-24 years old, have dropped from school and live in Bureau County.

Program served 12 youth this year

Regional Work Study – Regional Office of Education #35

Provides youth from Putnam and LaSalle counties with academic instruction toward the attainment of a high school diploma and also provides employment opportunities

Instruction is provided at IVCC in Oglesby and at IVCC in Ottawa. Youth are 16-21 years old and have dropped from school.

Program served 41 youth this year

Career Preparation Life Skills Program

Informational sessions presented to high school students on Career Planning, Job Search and Job Keeping topics throughout the school year

Provided to students at Safe School in LaSalle County and the Center for Change in Whiteside County

Presented by BEST Inc., local employers, local colleges and NW Illinois AHEC

Local employers from retail, manufacturing, healthcare, logistics and military spoke about careers, job requirements, career decision making and being successful in job search and at work.

**BEST, Inc. continued:
Work in the Real World**

Annual career informational fair for high school students

Event is held at Sauk Valley Community College

250 students registered for the event from schools in Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Carroll and Bureau counties

Over 40 employers and educators provided information about careers in Agriculture, Building Trades, Business, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary, Digital Technology, Drones, Education, Health Care, IT, Manufacturing, Mechanics, Military, Nursing and Social Work

Number of individuals enrolled in services in Program Year 2017

270	Youth
213	Adults
200	Dislocated Workers
84	Trade Customers
2406	Universal Services offered to the general public

Economic Impact on the Communities from BEST exits for Program Year 2017

Adults	98 individuals
Total Annual Wages Earned	\$3,314,096.00
Average Annual Wage	\$ 33,817.31

Dislocated Workers	89 individuals
Total Annual Wages Earned	\$2,697,564.00
Average Annual Wage	\$30,309.71

Business Leadership Award

The Good Samaritan Society of Mount Carroll

The Good Samaritan Society of Mount Carroll, Illinois, is a 72-bed skilled nursing facility with a dynamic and caring staff. Good Sam's principles of treating every person with respect, dignity, and compassion are found throughout the organization. The BEST representative approached Valerie Hillman, Good Samaritan's Director of Human Resources, for a possible internship for a young man who had very little work background and few skills but was enrolled in BEST's GED program and expressed an interest in bettering himself.

Val thought Good Sam might be able to help our young man, although she had some misgivings. The interview did not go well; not only did he have few skills, he was negative about his chances. Despite some misgivings, Val and the staff at Good Samaritan took the chance and hired him - all based on their knowledge of the power of their culture. They put together a comprehensive training program that would teach the young man marketable skills while helping him improve his dependability and interpersonal skills.

Several times during the internship, the staff at Good Samaritan stepped in and helped the young man overcome personal obstacles. By the end of the training he had improved greatly and had shown promise to do well in facility maintenance. Even more important, the young man showed more confidence in himself and more interest in others.

Knowing that he needed full-time employment, Val combined two of Good Sam's part-time jobs into one full-time, more highly-skilled position. BEST was able to offer OJT assistance.

Good Samaritan made a difference in this young man's life by treating him as an individual who deserved respect, dignity, and compassion.

As a new Program Year unfolds, the Core Partners (Business Employment Skills Team, Inc., IL Department of Employment Security, Adult Education, and IL Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services) are looking forward to continuing their partnership of serving individuals under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Individual Achievement Award



Ashley Struve

In July of 2015 Ashley Struve found herself out of a job with the closure of Robertshaw. She had worked there for 10 years as a Machine Operator earning \$13.56/hour. She was a high school graduate but didn't have many skills to offer employers and few job options.

Since she was eligible for the TAARA program, Ashley decided to take advantage of the TAA Education and TRA benefits under that program. Coordinating her services and benefits with IDES and interests as shown by Illinois worknet testing, we started searching for training programs. Ashley was interested in Environmental issues and found a program offered at EICC District -Clinton Community College in Health, Safety, and Environmental Technology. This program was an AS Degree which was almost 100% online. As Ashley was a single parent with a 6 year old daughter this program appealed to her as she could be available to her daughter and take classes. She started classes in August.

The following summer Ashley found herself challenged needing child care for her required speech class. She applied but found 4 C's was out of money. Thankfully a friend helped her out instead.

Ashley was very successful during her training receiving semester gpa's of 3.439 or above. During her final semester at school Ashley was encouraged to look for an internship/work experience position to gain experience in her field of study. With the assistance of the Business Relations Representative from BEST, interviews were lined up with area employers. Ashley was interviewed and found herself particularly interested in working at Maclean-Fogg Components Solutions, Metform Division. Her internship/work experience under the 1D program started in March of 2017 and it was for an EHS Specialist position where she worked 29 hours a week or less at a wage of \$14.40/hour. During her final semester in school Ashley received a 4 pt. gpa in addition to working at her internship and being a full time Mom. Ashley graduated from Eastern Iowa Community College District in May of 2017 with a 3.533 cumulative gpa. Ashley's internship at Metform ended in July of 2017.

Metform was so pleased with the Ashley's work, they were very interested in hiring her utilizing the OJT program. Ashley was hired and works as a Safety Technician earning \$19.25/hr. During her OJT Ashley learned skills becoming proficient in MQI, learned to facilitate continuous improvement projects, how to perform root-cause analysis of EHS incidents and how to lead EHS audits to ensure compliance to

Federal and state regulations. While at Metform Ashley was very successful and earned all excellent evaluations regarding her attendance/punctuality, displaying initiative, attitude, quality and accuracy of work, developing necessary skills, relationships with peers and supervisors and completing tasks on time.

Ashley's OJT ended in February of 2018. She is still working at Metform and loves her job. Ashley is a wonderful role model to her daughter who is now 9 years old and her former coworkers at Robertshaw showing them it is possible to succeed after adversity.



Anthoni Patten

Anthoni enrolled in the ROE #47 Education Outreach Program in August 2016 with the goal of earning his high school equivalency certificate and obtaining employment.

Following his enrollment, Anthoni immediately began GED classes at the Wallace Educational Center site. He attended class on a consistent basis and with perseverance, he attained his HSE certificate in October 2017. As a student, Anthoni always had a positive attitude and was friendly and helpful to both staff and students. Although quite happy for Anthoni, we all missed him in the classroom after he graduated!

Anthoni's educational achievements are just one part of what he has accomplished. When he enrolled in the Education Outreach Program at the age of 21, he did not have a work history. Once he felt he was making progress with his GED exams, Anthoni was eager to enter the workforce.

In February 2017, he began a work experience job as a Stock Assistant at the Salvation Army in Sterling. This was Anthoni's first job and he although he was tired at first, he arrived on time and was at work as scheduled each day. When his work experience hours ended at the end of October 2017, his supervisor commented on what a good worker he was and how proud she was of the work that he did for them.

Even before his work experience ended at the Salvation Army, Anthoni was requesting the opportunity to participate in another work experience. So, in November 2017, he began a second work experience; this time working with Self Help Enterprises at the Wahl Clipper Corporation site as a Debris Removal

Continued on next page

Individual Achievement Awards

Anthony Pattern continued:

Specialist. Again, Anthony continued to prove himself as a hard worker. This new job required much physical labor including walking miles each day on the job. Anthony never missed work. At his work experience evaluation, his supervisor gave Anthony the highest rating in every area and had the utmost praise for him. In fact, when his work experience ended, they hired him the very next day!

Anthony's commitment to achieving his goals and the tremendous work ethic he has demonstrated makes him our outstanding youth for this year. We at the Education Outreach Program are so proud of him and all of his achievements.



Alysha Adams

Alysha Adams is a 19 year old single mother of a baby boy. She started with our BEST, Inc. GED/HSE program when she was pregnant with her baby in August, 2017. She continued coming to tutoring sessions after she had her baby and obtained her GED/HSE on May 7, 2018.

When Alysha was in high school at West Carroll, she was a member of the Servant Leadership Group. They carry out service projects through Highland Community College for the local community and also raise money for food for impoverished people across the world. Alysha enjoyed her time volunteering and serving others through Servant Leadership.

Alysha is currently working at the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Thomson, Illinois in the Visitor Center. She is in our work experience program. She is learning a lot about the environment and the animals that live in the Mississippi River area. She helps with school groups and assists in teaching students. She helps them learn about the plants and animals that live near Visitor Center and in the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Alysha is an inspiring young lady. She is excited about all of the new things she is learning at the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She is a friendly, outgoing and dependable person. She has a great future ahead of her and she is on the road to success. She has overcome great adversity as a young, single mother and hopes to improve her future. She is planning to go to college for a degree in education or nursing. She is always helpful and feels good about serving others.

The following chart represents the number of students receiving financial support from NCI Works for Program Year 2017.

Institution	Number of Enrollees	Tuition Paid to Institution
Blackhawk College	3	\$16,718.95
Eastern Iowa Community College	1	\$4,754.00
Hamilton Technical College	2	\$19,500.00
Highland Community College	8	\$34,309.82
Illinois Central College	1	\$1,472.45
Illinois Valley Community College	73	\$335,802.68
Illinois Welding School	2	\$25,000.00
Kankakee Community College	1	\$2,759.40
Kishwaukee College	24	\$58,284.75
Methodist Medical Center	2	\$22,495.00
Midwest Technical Institute	2	\$13,000.00
Northeast Iowa Community College	1	\$2,708.25
OSF St Francis Medical Center	1	\$3,250.00
Rasmussen College	5	\$20,181.14
Rock Valley College	6	\$12,840.00
Rockford Career College	1	\$3,243.38
Sauk Valley Community College	72	\$255,210.63
Southern Illinois University	2	\$4,333.00
Whiteside Area Career Center	4	\$1,000.00
Total	212	\$836,863.45

Chief Elected Officials for WIA #4

Represented by:

Dale Anderson, Chairman
Bureau County Board

Kevin Reibel, Chairman
Carroll County Board

R.J. Winkelhake, Chairman
Jo Daviess County Board

Jerry Hicks, Chairman
LaSalle County Board

Jim Wentling, Chairman
Lee County Board

Kim Gouker, Chairman
Ogle County Board

Steven Malavolti, Chairman
Putnam County Board

James Duffy, Chairman
Whiteside County Board

Robert Albrecht, Member
Bureau County Board

Ron Smith, Member
Jo Daviess County Board

Randy Freeman, Member
LaSalle County Board

The following list represents local businesses that utilized services offered from NCI Works!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Real Estate Professionals | Custom Fab/Metals |
| Ace Distribution Center | Dan Construction |
| Addus Home Care | Del Monte Foods |
| AgView FS | Doug's Automotive |
| Allegion | Drop Tank |
| AME Theaters | Dura Automotive |
| American Extrusion Int. | E. D. Etnyre |
| Astec Mobil Screens | Eagle Ridge |
| Badge-A-Minit | Eakas |
| Bay Valley Foods | East Dubuque Nirtrogen |
| Beck Oil Co. | Educators of Beauty |
| Big John Portables | Emerald Performance Materials |
| Big Meadows | E-Town Coffee |
| Bonnell Industries | F. N. Smith |
| Bourn & Koch | Focus Services |
| Brewster Cheese | Frantz Manufacturing |
| Bright Farms | Freedom House |
| Brightflower Farm | Furst Staffing |
| Butitta Brothers Auto | Galena Gazette |
| Cain Millwork | Galena Territory Association |
| CanAm | Gardner Denver |
| CarQuest | Good Samaritan |
| Carroll Industrial Molds | Haldane Custom Auto |
| Chestnut Mountain | HALO Branded Solutions |
| CGH Hospital | Hammer Hearing |
| Chicago Production | Harvard Bank |
| Clover Technologies | Heritage Health |
| Common Sense | Heritage Woods Nursing Home |
| Complete AutoWerks | Home of Hope |
| Conover Coffee & Chocolates | |
| Corporate Services | |
| Country Financial | |
| Crop Production Service | |
| Culvers | |

Continued on next page.

For information regarding the Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works) or any of their initiatives and/or projects, contact:

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Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. • 815 N Orlando Smith Ave, Rm C-328
Oglesby, IL 61348
815-224-0375
pam_furlan@best-inc.org



Hometown Auto
Hospice of the Rock River Valley
Hughes Resources
HyVee
Illinois Accounting and Tax
Illinois Ag Education
Infra-Metals
Illinois Cement
Illinois Valley Community Hospital
Illinois Valley Center for
Independent Living
Jack Mabley Center
Jackson Hewitt
James Hardie
JLS Fabrication
JoCarroll Energy
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
JT Cullen
Kelley's Market
KSB Hospital
Kunes Country
Lake Carroll
LaSalle Office Supply
Lee County Council on Aging
Lemfco
Liberty Village - Princeton
Lock 16
LW Schneider
Majeski Motors
Metokote - PPG
Menards
Manpower
Maze Nails -SSE
Mendota Lutheran Home
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Metform
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Midwest Medical Center
Midwest Motors of Savanna
Mike Blair
Miner Gilroy& Meade
MTI Power
Music Suite 408
NAPA
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Olds Insurance
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Ottawa Dental Lab
Ottawa Friendship House
Paddle Wheel
People Link
Perry Memorial Hospital
Peru YMCA
Piehls
Pioneer Seed
Project First Rate
Quadlock Mfg
Quality Care Cleaning
Raynor Garage Door
RenTech
Rivershores Healthcare
and Rehab Center
Rochelle Foods/Hormel
Rolling Hills
Rotary Airlock
RRCA Account Management
Ryder
Savanna Public Library
Sawicki Motors

Scholl Insurance
Schweickert & Ganassin LLP
Securitas Security Services
Sedona Staffing
Senior Resource Center
Sensient Flavors
Serenity House
Sigan America
Signcraft Inc.
Sinnissippi Centers
Small Town Saloon
Spectrum Brand/Rayovac
SSE Packaging
St. Mary's Cement
Sterling Steel
Stevenson Transfer
Stockton Public Library
Streator Eagle 6
Sullivan's Foods
Sweet Sadies
Swenson Spreader
Teen Turf
Thames Management
The Reserves Network
The Mop shop
Thomson AUSP
Timber Lake Playhouse
Timken
Town and Country Services
US Cellular
US Fish and Wildlife
US Foods
Wahl Clipper
Walmart Distribution
Waste Connection/Il Valley
Waverly Place
Woods/Blout

WRWO Radio
WZOE Radio
Young DaVinci Childcare
Youth Service Bureau
Zearing Child Enrichment Center

The Partners of NCI Works provide a variety of services, free of charge, to area business. From recruiting assistance to incumbent worker training. The partners of NCI Works are here to assist you with you workforce needs.

For information on NCI Works Employer Services contact Dianna Schuler at 815-640-9406, or email her at dianna_schuler@best-inc.org.

Northwest Central Illinois Works Membership

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Attorney At Law
Perona, Peterlin, Andreoni & Brolley, LLC

Dave Argubright

Business Agent, Carpenters Local #195
Illinois Valley Building Trades

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Executive Director
Carroll County Housing Authority

Mary Boogemans

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Advantage Logistics

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Vice President of Quality & Community Services
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Sinnissippi Centers

Robert White

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Customer Service Manager/Assistant Location Manager
Rescar, Inc.

Justin Wiggins

Owner
Wiggins Computing, LLC

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Brandon Rumler

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